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Sars, one of the most eminent of the younger European zoologists, and a zoological artist of unusual skill.

The chief interest of the book is in the accounts and figures of the curious crustacean parasites found living on worms. These are degraded water fleas (Copepoda), like the Lernaëans found living on the gills of fishes. The Danish naturalist Krøyer, recently deceased, was the first, we believe, to discover one of these parasites on a worm (Polynoë). Keferstein, a German naturalist, afterwards detected several similar forms, and more recently Steenstrup, Claparède and others have found a considerable number on different worms. These discoveries form a new chapter in the intricate subject of parasitism, and open up new relations in the study of biology.

NEW GALAPAGOS BIRDS.*—During the course of seven years' explorations in the greater part of Central America, the Cordilleras of the Andes in Columbia, Ecuador and Peru, Dr. Habel found time to visit the Chinca and Galapagos Islands. While he paid particular attention to the natural and physical history of these regions, he did not neglect the ethnology and meteorology of the countries he visited. He has returned with large collections stored up in New York, and we trust he may get time to arrange and publish the results of his travels. Meanwhile the birds of the Galapagos Islands have been identified, and in this article, a list of thirty-seven species of birds collected by him is given, with illustrated descriptions of seven new species. The authors state that they "are preparing for publication a memoir on the avifauna of this group of islands, in which [they] propose to embrace what has previously been recorded on this subject, as well as the results of Dr. Habel's arduous investigations."

RECENT BRITISH OSTRACODES.†—Whoever attempts the difficult and wearisome task of studying and describing the numerous shelled entomostraca which swarm in our pools, ponds and streams, and also in the sea, will find the occasional papers of Mr. Brady invaluable, while the present is a work ranking with the elaborate

* Character of new species of birds collected by Dr. Habel in the Galapagos Islands. By P. L. Slater and O. Salvin. (From the Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London.) May, 1870. 8vo. pp. 6, with cuts.

† A Monograph of the Recent British Ostracoda. By George S. Brady. (From the Transactions of the Linnæan Society, vol. xxvi. (no date) 4to. pp. 142, with 18 plates.

volume of Baird, and the more thorough memoirs of Lilljeborg, Fischer, Zenker, Claus, Sars, and others. The classification is that proposed by G. O. Sars, son of the distinguished Norwegian zoologist, Prof. Michael Sars, in his "Oversigt af Norges marine Ostracoder" published in 1865. The Ostracoda are represented by the little two shelled water fleas, about half a line or less in length, which swim over the bottom or creep over submerged plants. As remarked by the author, "the geographical and bathymetrical distribution of the Ostracoda is a matter of the greatest interest as illustrating the probable condition under which the various fossiliferous strata have been deposited." We might also add that the Ostracoda are found in the lowest fossiliferous strata, in company with the Trilobites and Nebaliads. So that a profound knowledge of the living species is absolutely necessary for the correct appreciation of some of the earliest traces of life on our globe.

THE AMERICAN ENTOMOLOGIST.—I regret to state contrary to announcement a year ago, that this magazine will not be continued during the coming year. The cost of publishing a paper so profusely illustrated with original figures is great, and the publishers, Messrs. R. P. Studley and Co., have lately concluded to discontinue it, as they have not met with sufficient financial encouragement. I have, however, since they so decided, purchased from them all the illustrations, and all interest in the magazine, and hope at no very distant day to recommence its publication myself. Meanwhile I take this means of thanking the many subscribers who, during the year, have sent in expressions of encouragement and appreciation, or who have signified their intention of renewing subscription. I shall ever be glad to hear from them on entomological subjects, and to render them what little service lies in my power.—C. V. RILEY, *St. Louis, Mo., December 10, 1871.*

BOTANY.

DISMISSAL OF THE LATE BOTANIST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.—*Editors American Naturalist.* DEAR SIR:—I have to request that you will place before the readers of the AMERICAN NATURALIST the correspondence herein enclosed.

Dr. Parry was thought to have performed the duties of Botanist to the Department of Agriculture to the entire satisfaction